THE THOREAU SOCIETY BULLETIN

Number 8 July, 1944

EDITORIAL. It may be that societies have to be formal and have a full roster of officers. But perhaps a Thoreau society could be simple. It should be possible to have our friendship in the name of Thoreau with less machinery. As I see it, we do two things: We exchange news and ideas through mimeographed bulletins and the booklet; and we meet in Concord in the week of Thoreau's birthday. At present all the active officers have to concern themselves with everything. Why not have but two officers: a Chairman-of-the-Day to plan and carry through the annual meeting, and an Editor to plan and carry through the bulletins and booklet? That would define functions. Each of these officers might have a committee behind him for moral support. Annual dues? Just pay the Editor a dollar a year by way of subscribing for the publications, with the understanding that part of the money would be earmarked for expenses of the annual meeting. It could be as simple as that. We'll talk about this in Concord.

My old schoolmaster, Norman Foerster, sent me two Thoreau clippings the other day. One (perhaps from the NATION) quoted H. M. Tomlinson on Thoreau's WEEK. The other, from the Pittsburgh DISPATCH, consisted of nine estimates of Thoreau. Four of the nine were from Pittsburgh; and one other was from Pennsylvania. There must have been a Thoreau group there at the time. The time was 1921. It is remarkable how aged and yellow a couple of 1921 clippings look. I'm exactly twice the age of the clippings. But I think I have better color and texture.

With Normandy invaded and Jersey scheduled to be cleared of Nazis, perhaps by the time you get this Bulletin, news about the Thoreau family of the Isle of Jersey is timely. Half the members of the family fled as refugees to England; half stayed in Jersey under Nazi rule. Several of those who stayed have died since the Germans invaded, among them William Thoreau and his son John Thoreau. The island itself is said to have been stripped. If the Thoreau Society were to help refugees, we'd suggest that it begin with the Thoreau kin who are exiled from Jersey and making a living as best they can in Yorkshire.

THOREAU PUBLICATION, APRIL THROUGH JUNE, 1944. A CHRONOLOGICAL LIST

1. Madison, Chas. A. "Henry David Thoreau: Transcendental Individualist," ETHICS, 54:110-123. January, 1944. (Reported too late for last list).
2. Adams, Raymond. A review of Carl Bode's COLLECTED POEMS OF HENRY THOREAU. NEW ENGLAND QUARTERLY, 17:114-117. March, 1944.
3. Cosman, Max. "A Yankee in Canada," CANADIAN HISTORICAL REVIEW, Mar.'44, pp.33-37.
4. THOREAU SOCIETY BULLETIN, No.7 (April, 1944) 3 mimeographed pages.
5. Harding, Walter. "Henry David Thoreau: Philologist," WORD STUDY, 19:No.4:p.7.
6. Ballou, Adin. "Pond Prophet," (A sonnet) CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, April 12.
7. Ballou, Adin. "The Completed Music," (A Sonnet) New York Herald Tribune, Apr.30.
8. "Thoreau on Uncommon Schools," (A WALDEN quotation) N. Y. Herald Tribune, Apr.30.
9. Wheeler, Ruth R. "Old Virginia Road," Concord Journal, April 30, page 6.
10. "Hero:Henry David Thoreau," FORTUNE, 29:152-3. May, 1944. Color plate of Thoreau still life. No.22 of a series on heroic Americans.
11. Harding, Walter. "Thoreau Attends Quaker Meeting," FRIEND'S INTELLIGENCER, 101: 298-299. May 6, 1944.
12. Gray, Leonard B. "Let Thoreau Be Thoreau", Concord Journal, May 21, page 7.
13. Thoreau, Henry D. "Let Us Live Deliberately," Cleveland Unitarian, May 20, p.1.
14. Longstreth, T. Morris. "Thoreau and the Thrushes," CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, June 8. (An essay).
15. Ballou, Adin. "High Pilgrimage,"(A sonnet) CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, June 14.
16. Kieran, John. "Letters Received and Contents Noted" New York Sun, June 16. A comparison of Thoreau and Gilbert White.
17. McDowell, Tremaine (ed.) AMERICA IN LITERATURE. N.Y.:Crofts, 1944. Contains "The Walden Experiment"by Thoreau (226-232) and White's "Retort Transcendental"232-4.

It is hoped that there will be a few copies of the Thoreau pages from the May FORTUNE available at the meeting in Concord. Come provided with an extra dime if you want one of the reprints. The colored plate is a good photographic study of Thoreau memorabilia. The photographing alone took two hours. Then the visitors learned that the way to pronounce Thoreau's name was "Thurro" and that the town was "Concud." . . . One can never be sure of another man's phonetic spelling; but that's not the way we heard the names. In Jersey the name is "Tauro"; in Concord we think it sounds like "Thorro"; Westerners are apt to throw the accent on the last syllable. We recall that Miss Abby Hosmer, the oldest native of Concord we ever knew, used to call the town "Congcud, or some such pronunciation. . . . Speaking of reprints, Walter Harding, 670 West 165th St., New York City 32, has a few copies of Wm. White's A HENRY DAVID THOREAU BIBLIOGRAPHY, 1908-1937 for sale at 10¢. It's a good booklet to have, and a good bargain for the money.

In the last Bulletin we reported that William White had come upon a copy of WALDEN in the library of an Aleutian outpost. David Sills, son of member R. M. Sills, is a veritable Johnny Appleseed of WALDENS. He is in the army, and carries with him two books: Shakespeare and WALDEN. Each time he is transferred (and that is rather often in this man's army) he leaves behind a WALDEN for the post library. He left one in Sitka in 1943. Does William White come along and find David Sills's plantings?

THOREAU AMONG THE Ph.D.'s. Scholarly activity flowers, or perhaps goes to seed, in the doctoral dissertation. In the ten years since 1934 an average of one dissertation a year has concerned itself directly or closely with Thoreau. And there are several begun since 1934 but not yet completed. We list them below. A list of masters' theses about Thoreau during the same period would fill several pages.

I. DISSERTATIONS COMPLETED

1. Bode, Carl. Henry Thoreau as a Poet, with a Critical Edition of His Poems. (Northwestern University, 1941)
2. Brickett, Elsie F. Studies in the Poets and Poetry of New England Transcendentalism. (Yale, 1934).
3. Cochnower, Mary E. Thoreau and Stoicism (Univ. of Iowa, 1939).
4. Groth, J. H. C. German Backgrounds of American Transcendentalism (Univ. of Washington, 1941).
5. Kirchner, Wm. Harry Jr. Henry David Thoreau as a Social Critic (Univ. of Minn. 1938)
6. Lorch, Fred Wm. Thoreau and the Organic Principle in Poetry (Univ. of Iowa, 1936)
7. Talbert, Jay Kennedy. John Brown in American Literature (Univ. of Kansas, 1941)
8. Vance, William Silas. Carlyle and American Transcendentalists (Harvard, 1936)
9. Wilson, John Byron. Transcendental Activity in the Dissemination of Culture in America, 1830-1860. (Univ. of North Carolina, 1941).

II. DISSERTATIONS NOW IN PROGRESS

1. Fletcher, Frank. Thoreau and Early American Writers: The Genesis of Thoreau's Concept of Nature. (Univ. of Michigan).
2. Pole, James T. American Transcendentalism; Its growth and Reception, 1835-1860. (Columbia University)
3. Whaling, Anne. Seventeenth Century Influences on the Writings of Thoreau. (Yale).
4. Willson, Laurence. The Influence of New England History and Legend on the Writings of Henry David Thoreau. (Yale).

THE 1944 BOOKLET. A committee is at work on the problem of the 1944 BOOKLET. This committee is made up of Will Bates Grant (printer), T. Morris Longstreth (writer), Dr. Fred S. Piper (bibliophile), and Raymond Adams (editor, author, and printer of this BULLETIN).

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THOREAU SOCIETY MEETING
Concord, Massachusetts, July 15, 1944

10:00 a.m. at The First Parish (Unitarian) Vestry:
Report of the two years since the 1942 meeting, Raymond Adams.
Reading of Adin Ballou's sonnets and T. Morris Longstreth's "Thoreau and the Thrushes," Mrs. Caleb Wheeler.
"Thoreau's Editors," a paper by Francis H. Allen.

Business session of the society,
Report of the Secretary-Treasurer (See condensed report at the foot of this page).
Report of the committee on the 1944 Booklet.
New business and discussion.
Report of the nominating committee, nomination and election of officers.

1:00 p.m. Buffet Luncheon at The Colonial Inn, with informal talks during and after the meal. (The charge for the luncheon is $1.00 a plate. If you plan to attend, please notify Mr. T. Morris Longstreth, Concord, Mass., by July 12th).

No further program; but members of a Thoreau Society will know how to spend an afternoon in Concord.

CONDENSED REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-TREASURER

Active members as of June 30, 1944	113
Libraries on the free mailing list	10
Receiving review copies of booklets	8

Balance on hand July 1, 1943,	$64.43
Receipts, July 1, 1943 - June 30, 1944 (Including one gift of $25.00)	154.18
Expenses, July 1, 1943 - June 30, 1944,	24.78
Balance on hand June 30, 1944 (But see below)	193.83

Bills not yet received but chargeable to 1943-1944 account:
Cost of multigraphing 164 June 1944 postcards.
Fee for use of meeting room and other expenses of the July 15, 1944, meeting of the society.
Cost of a printed booklet for 1944.